No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-266-3-13-9

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 77//

TO COVEY/PASSAGE/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA 66078 WHG1385

TOHAK 77

TOHAK 77

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

I AM VERY PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY BY IAN SMITH IN RHODESIA, ON BEHALF OF THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES HE HAS ACCEPTED PROPOSALS THAT CAN HEAD OFF AN ESCALATING CONFLICT AND SHOULD PRODUCE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH CAN BRING SOUTHERN AFRICA CLOSER TO PEACE.

THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD TO HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION, BUT WE HAVE NOT DONE SO ALONE. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SETTLEMENT SET FORTH TODAY ARE BASED ON THE PLAN OUTLINED BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN ON MARCH 22. I WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH WHOM WE HAVE CLOSELY COOPERATED. FARSIGHTED AND INDISPENSABLE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE ALSO MADE BY THE VARIOUS AFRICAN PRESIDENTS. I WOULD LIKE AS WELL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER OF SOUTH AFRICA.
THE ROAD IS NOW OPEN FOR AN AFRICAN SOLUTION TO AN AFRICAN PROBLEM--FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, VIOLENCE AND BITTERNESS. THIS HAS BEEN THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PURPOSE OF THE SKILLFUL AND ENERGETIC DIPLOMACY WE HAVE PURSUED. WE CALL ON OTHER COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT, NOT IMPEDE, THE AFRICAN SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.
THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO HELP. WE WILL NOT PRESCRIBE FOR THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA WHAT ONLY THEY CAN BRING ABOUT, BUT WE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO LEND OUR FULL SUPPORT TO THE EFFORTS OF THE BRITISH, THE RHODESIANS OF BOTH RACES, AND THE AFRICAN STATES CONCERNED.
IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT THE SEVERAL PARTIES WILL NOW MOVE

********** WHSR COMMENT **********

HYLND,MCFARLANE,SECFILE

RECALLED
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SWIFTLY TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS FOR AN INDEPENDENT
ZIMBABWE IN WHICH ALL OF ITS PEOPLES CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN
HARMONY. TODAY WE HAVE SEEN AN ACT OF REALISM THAT IS THE
FIRST STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL, WITH GOOD WILL ON ALL SIDES THAT
VISION CAN BECOME A REALITY.
A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE HAS BEEN EASED. WE CAN TAKE SATISFACTION
IN THE ROLE WE HAVE PLAYED. I EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO THE
PEOPLES OF RHODESIA AND OF ALL AFRICA. I CALL ON ALL NATIONS
TO HELP THEM SHAPE A FUTURE OF PEACE, PROSPERITY AND HUMAN
DIGNITY.
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